CHURCH NEWS

FROM THE NORTHERN COUNTRIES

Edited by
THE NORTHERN ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE
Sigtuna, Sweden

Director: Dr. HARRY JOHANSSON, Sigtuna, Sweden
Editor: Rev. JOHS. LANGHOFF, Øster Egesborg per Mern, Denmark

o. 61 October 28th, 1960.

DENMARK

ive Candidates for See of Copenhagen.

Never before have so many candidates been nominated for a see as or the see of Copenhagen at present vacant, as Bishop Fuglsang-Damgaard ill retire on account of age. When the time-limit expired five candiates had been nominated. They are Rev. Haldor Hald, Chief of the hurch Army, Copenhagen; Rev. Jacob Joensen, Rural Dean on the Faroe slands; Mr. Otto Krabbe, Head of the Student's Christian Settlement, openhagen; Dr. Svend Lerfeldt, Church of the Holy Ghost, Copenhagen; nd Rev. W. Westergaard Madsen, Secretary General of the philantropic rganization "Samvirkende Menighedsplejer", Copenhagen.

All clergymen and members of parish councils in the diocese are ntitled to vote, and if one of the candidates should obtain more than /3 of all votes he shall be appointed by the Minister of Church Affairs, rs. Bodil Koch. Otherwise she is free to appoint any of the candidates ominated; but since 1922 when the Episcopal Election Act came into force he candidate obtaining the highest number of votes has been appointed.

The reason for nominating a special candidate from the Faroe Isands undoubtedly must be found in the fact that the Danish Parliament, n deciding the division of the Diocese of Copenhagen, did not meet the ishes of the population of the Faroe Islands for the establishment of n independent diocese on the Faroe Islands or the appointment of an ssistant bishop under the diocese of Copenhagen.

As candidates for the newly established diocese of Elsinore have een nominated Rev. J.B. Leer Andersen, Elsinore; Rev. Svend Aage Nielsen, ural Dean, Haslev; and Rev. N.J. Rald, Rural Dean, Copenhagen.

o Free Church Morning Devotions on the Radio.

The Danish Radio has refused a request from the Free Church Council or an early morning devotional service, arranged by the various Free hurches. At present a short liturgical service is transmitted daily rom the Cathedral of Copenhagen at 8:30 a.m.; but besides this National utheran devotional service the Free Churches would like another one of broader aspect at 6 a.m. However, in the letter of refusal which as read at the annual meeting of the Free Church Council last month he Corporation revealed that the broadcasting of a morning hymn t this hour is being considered, upon which news the Free Church ouncil has requested that hymns and sacred songs should alternate.

CHURCH NEWS

FROM THE NORTHERN COUNTRIES

Edited by

THE NORTHERN ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE

Sigtuna, Sweden

Director: Dr. HARRY JOHANSSON, Sigtuna, Sweden

Editor: Rev. JOHS. LANGHOFF, Øster Egesborg pr. Mern, Denmark

---

DENMARK

Five Candidates for See of Copenhagen.

Never before have so many candidates been nominated for a see as for the see of Copenhagen at present vacant, as Bishop Fuglsang-Damgaard will retire on account of age. When the time-limit expired five candidates had been nominated. They are Rev. Balder Held, Chief of the Garrison Army, Copenhagen; Rev. Jacob Jensen, Rural Dean on the Faroe Islands; Mr. Otto Krabbe, Head of the Student's Christian Settlement, Copenhagen; Dr. Svend Lerfeldt, Church of the Holy Ghost, Copenhagen; and Rev. K. Westergaard Madsen, Secretary General of the philanthropic organisation "Samvirkende Menighedshjælper", Copenhagen.

All clergymen and members of parish councils in the dioceses are entitled to vote, and if one of the candidates should obtain more than 50% of all votes he shall be appointed by the Minister of Church Affairs, Mr. Bodil Koch. Otherwise she is free to appoint any of the candidates nominated; but since 1922 when the Episcopal Election Act came into force no candidate obtaining the highest number of votes has been appointed.

The reason for nominating a special candidate from the Faroe Islands undoubtedly must be found in the fact that the Danish Parliament, in deciding the division of the Dioceses of Copenhagen, did not meet the wishes of the population of the Faroe Islands for the establishment of an independent diocese on the Faroe Islands or the appointment of an assistant bishop under the diocese of Copenhagen.

As candidates for the newly established dioceses of Aalborg have been nominated Rev. J.P. Leer Andersen, Aalborg; Rev. Svend Aage Nielsen, Rural Dean, Hadsley; and Rev. N.J. Feld, Rural Dean, Copenhagen.

Free Church Morning Devotions on the Radio.

The Danish Radio has refused a request from the Free Church Council for an early morning devotional service, arranged by the various Free Churches. - At present a short liturgical service is transmitted daily from the Cathedral of Copenhagen at 8:30 a.m.; but besides this National Lutheran devotional service the Free Churches would like another one of a broader aspect at 6 a.m. However, in the letter of refusal which was read at the annual meeting of the Free Church Council last month the Corporation revealed that the broadcasting of a morning hymn at this hour is being considered, upon which news the Free Church Council has requested that hymns and sacred songs should alternate.

At the annual meeting of the Danish Sunday School Union, representing the various Free Church Sunday schools, it was likewise decided to request the Danish Radio to introduce special religious programmes for children.

The Radio Advertises Sunday Church Services.

The Danish Radio very determinedly enforeces the principle of not allowing advertisements on the radio. This principle will be waived shortly, however, in as much as a Saturday programme directly advertising for the following Sunday morning church services is being planned.

The directing manager of one of the big Danish advertising agencies, Mr. Frantz Harlang, has been asked to arrange the broadcast since he, for years, has been advocating that the Church should make use of advertising.

The programme will constitute an experiment on the part of the Danish Radio and Church circles are equally keenly interested in the effect of such publicity.

Ordinary Evangelization among Jews Impossible?

In an interview in the Norwegian religious paper "Vårt Land" Rev. Georg Bartholdy, President of the Evangelical Alliance in Denmark and Vice President of the movement "The Word and Israel", says that in the present circumstances it is impossible to carry out any ordinary mission work among Jews. We cannot approach them as clergymen, only as brothers who, out of love, will try to win their confidence while hoping thus to be able to bear witness for Christ at the same time.

Contrary to Rev. Paul Borchsenius (see CN No. 60) Mr. Bartholdy emphasizes that, of course, the commandment to preach the Gospel also applies to the Jews, but that the sin of the Church against Israel has made any kind of institutional approach impossible. He is convinced that the great revival of evangelization will come through Israel and for that very reason still greater efforts must be made to win Israel for Christ. "Thus we, like St. Paul, are trying to "provoke them to conversion", he says.

In a leader the "Vårt Land" stresses the difference in views of Mr. Borchsenius and Mr. Bartholdy, but feels, nevertheless, that fundamentally their views are more or less the same. In opposition to these the paper maintains that ordinary mission work both could and should be carried out in Israel, and points out that there are several Christian congregations in that country.

News in Brief:

- The former Bishop of Haderslev, Bishop C.W. Noack, has died, 74 years of age. For a great number of years Bishop Noack was the President of the Danish Church in Foreign Countries.

- The Roman-Catholic Cistercian Order has bought the Castle of Bostrup in Jutland in order to use it for a convent. The Order already possesses a small monastery at Allerslev near Roskilde on Sealand.

No. 61 - October 28th, 1960

At the annual meeting of the Danish Sunday School Union, representing the various Free Church Sunday schools, it was likewise decided to request the Danish Radio to introduce special religious programmes for children.

The Radio Advertises Sunday Church Services.

The Danish Radio very determinedly enforces the principle of not allowing advertisements on the radio. This principle will be waived shortly, however, in as much as a Saturday programme directly advertising for the following Sunday morning church services is being planned.

The directing manager of one of the big Danish advertising agencies, Mr. Frantz Harlang, has been asked to arrange the broadcast since he, for years, has been advocating that the Church should make use of advertising.

The programme will constitute an experiment on the part of the Danish Radio and Church circles are equally keenly interested in the effect of such publicity.

Preliminary Evangelization among Jews Impossible?

In an interview in the Norwegian religious paper "Vårt Land" Bishop Georg Berthold, President of the Evangelical Alliance in Denmark and Vice President of the movement "The Word and Israel", says that in the present circumstances it is impossible to carry out any ordinary mission work among Jews. We cannot approach them as clergymen, only as Christians who, out of love, will try to win their confidence while hoping thus to be able to bear witness for Christ at the same time.

Contrary to Rev. Paul Borgenius (see CN No. 60) Mr. Berthold emphasizes that, of course, the commandment to preach the Gospel also applies to the Jews, but that the sin of the Church against Israel has made any kind of institutional approach impossible. He is convinced that the great revival of evangelization will come through Israel and for that very reason still greater efforts must be made to win Israel for Christ. "Thus we, like St. Paul, are trying to "provoke them to conversion", he says.

In a leader the "Vårt Land" stresses the difference in views of Mr. Borgenius and Mr. Berthold, but feels, nevertheless, that fundamentally their views are more or less the same. In opposition to these the paper maintains that ordinary mission work both could and should be carried out in Israel, and points out that there are several Christian congregations in that country.

Jews in Brief:

The former Bishop of Aalborg, Bishop C.W. Noack, has died, 71 years of age. For a great number of years Bishop Noack was the President of the Danish Church in Foreign Countries.

The Roman-Catholic Cistercian Order has bought the Castle of Scherrip in Jutland in order to use it for a convent. The Order already possesses a small monastery at Allerslev near Roskilde on Sealand.

FINLAND

ecord Matriculation of Divinity Students at Helsinki (Helsingfors).

This autumn no less than 205 new divinity students, 106 men and 9 women, have been matriculated at the University of Helsinki (Helingfors). This is the greatest number ever of divinity students. ast year 140 were entered, thus topping the previous record of 115 new heologians in 1933.

There are now more than 600 undergraduates studying theology at elsinki (Helsingfors) University, and according to the Dean, Professor imo T. Nikolainen, this makes the Theological Faculty at Helsinki (Helingfors) the biggest in the world. The greater influx of divinity tudents may perhaps be partly due to the restricted admission (numerus lausus) introduced at most of the other Faculties, but may also be a esult of Church effort for increasing the influx of theological students n order to avert an impending shortage of clergymen.

In Finland women cannot take orders in the Lutheran National Church, ut a great number of women divinity graduates are engaged in religious nstruction in schools and in Church activities among women and youth.

Because of the great number of theological students the possibility f establishing a new theological faculty or extending the present one t Helsinki (Helsingfors) has been considered. The Government of Finland, owever, has not made any provisions in the newly published Budget for an ncrease of the teaching staff at the Theological Faculty. The religious ewspaper "Kotimaa" deeply regrets this fact and advocates the establishent of a professorial chair of Church History of Finland, feeling, morever, that the Faculty on the whole needs an extension of the teaching taff.

resident Kekkonen Congratulated by Reprresentatives of the Church.

The President of Finland, Dr. Urho Kekkonen, celebrated his 60th irthday last month and was congratulated on this occasion by a deputaion of bishops, headed by Archbishop Ilmari Salomies.

In his address the Archbishop expressed the Church's appreciation f the always sympathetic attitude of the Presidents of Finland towards he Church. He felt that the attitude of the present President was vident in the fact that two new dioceses had been established during is term of office, and emphasized that the way in which the President ad taken part in the devotional life of the Church might serve as a odel for others.

In his reply President Kekkonen said that neither the Church nor he State are an end in themselves. The purpose of each is to serve. e expressed the hope that a healthy "laymen's spirit" might fill the hurch in its efforts for getting in touch with those who have ecome estranged from the Church.

In a birthday article the religious paper "Kotimaa" writes, among ther things:

"At various Church occasions President Kekkonen has expressed is opinion on the comprehensive task of the Church, not only in the ocial and moral orbits, but equally much in the fundamental religious ask of serving. President Kekkonen is a frequent guest at Church unctions and thus he and his wife have given all their fellow citizens n inspiring example."

FINLAND

Record Matriculation of Divinity Students at Helsinki (Helsingfors).

This autumn no less than 205 new divinity students, 106 men and women, have been matriculated at the University of Helsinki (Helsingfors). This is the greatest number ever of divinity students. Last year 140 were entered, thus topping the previous record of 115 theologians in 1953.

There are now more than 600 undergraduates studying theology at Helsinki (Helsingfors) University, and according to the Dean, Professor Timo T. Nikolainen, this makes the Theological Faculty at Helsinki (Helsingfors) the biggest in the world. The greater influx of divinity students may perhaps be partly due to the new piloted admission (numerus clausus) introduced at most of the other Faculties, but may also be a result of Church effort for increasing the influx of theological students in order to avert an impending shortage of clergymen.

In Finland women cannot take orders in the Lutheran National Church, but a great number of women divinity graduates are engaged in religious instruction in schools and in Church activities among women and youth.

Because of the great number of theological students the possibility of establishing a new theological Faculty or extending the present one in Helsinki (Helsingfors) has been considered. The Government of Finland, however, has not made any provision in the newly published Budget for an increase of the teaching staff at the Theological Faculty. The religious newspaper "Kotimaa" deeply regrets this fact and advocates the establishment of a professorial chair of Church History of Finland, declaring, moreover, that the Faculty on the whole needs an extension of the teaching staff.

President Kekkonen Congratulated by Representatives of the Church.

The President of Finland, Dr. Urho Kekkonen, celebrated his 60th birthday last month and was congratulated on this occasion by a deputation of bishops, headed by Archbishop Ilmari Salomies.

In his address the Archbishop expressed the Church's appreciation of the always sympathetic attitude of the President toward the Church. He felt that the attitude of the present President was evident in the fact that two new dioceses had been established during the term of office, and emphasized that the way in which the President had taken part in the devotional life of the Church might serve as a model for others.

In his reply President Kekkonen said that neither the Church nor the State are an end in themselves. The purpose of each is to serve. He expressed the hope that a healthy "layman's spirit" might fill the Church in its efforts for getting in touch with those who have become estranged from the Church.

In a birthday article the religious paper "Kotimaa" writes, among other things:

"At various Church occasions President Kekkonen has expressed his opinion on the comprehensive task of the Church, not only in the moral and moral orbits, but equally much in the fundamental religious task of serving. President Kekkonen is a frequent guest at Church functions and thus he and his wife have given all their fellow citizens an inspiring example."

60,000 Finland-Swedes Being "Absent".

In an article in the "Hufvudstadsbladet" Bishop G.O. Rosenqvist of the Swedish Diocese in Finland has pointed out two disturbing factors in connection with the Swedish section of the nation: the low birth-rate and the big emigration. The Finland-Swedish population amounts to roughly 350,000 inhabitants, but in several places the birth-rate is critically low, in many parishes less than 15 per thousand. Since the war the emigration has been so great that the number of "absent" Finland-Swedes is estimated at 60,000 people, and the emigration is still going on.

In these circumstances the Bishop finds that the fundamental values of life bestowed on man through having a native country and Church, a home and a mother tongue should be emphasized in preaching, in teaching, and in the Press. The Bishop further urges that the social and economic development which has contributed to the large emigration should be taken up for serious consideration, such as, among other things, the declining prospects of the fishing industry and the rationalization of agriculture and its profitableness.

"The Pastor as Councellor" - Series on the Radio.

Every fourth Wednesday throughout the autumn the Radio of Finland broadcasts a series of programmes under the common heading "The Pastor as Councellor". In the first programme Rev. Ralf Karlsson described some of the teen-age problems he has come across as a minister among school pupils and Rev. Erik Ewalds then examined the problems from a psychological point of view.

Greater Voluntary Efforts in Congregational Life.

In a leader the weekly in Swedish "Församlingsbladet", strongly urges that greater emphasis should be placed on the voluntary contribution of the members of the congregation in the life of the Church. The paper points out that several offices formerly conducted by members of the congregations in the course of time have been turned into paid jobs, such as, for instance, the ringing of bells, and the management of Church activities among children and young people. The paper goes on:

"Much of the conversion of voluntary, unpaid service into full or part time jobs is very likely both well justified and inevitable. But - and this is the crux of the matter - we must not be blind to the fact that the feeling of congregational fellowship dies to the same extent as the only actual effort and the sole responsibility of the individual member of the congregation is limited to paying church taxes. Consequently, we must engage the members in active work for two reasons: because there is work to be done, and in order to give them the experience of fellowship in work, a feeling of responsibility and the pleasure of knowing that they are needed, even in their own congregation.

News in Brief:

Also Finland is now actively engaged in evangelization work among Moslems. A Finnish clergyman and his family have left for the mission field of the Mission to the Pathans in West-Pakistan.

The cantonment church at Riihimäki which was erected in 1914 for the use of the Orthodox Russian soldiers has now been re-dedicated as a Lutheran parish church. The church has been thoroughly restored after being handed over in 1958 by the garrison at Riihimäki to the congregation in the town.

60,000 Finland-Swedes Being "Absent".

In an article in the "Nuivudatedabladet" Bishop G.O. Rosenqvist of the Swedish Diocese in Finland has pointed out two disturbing factors in connection with the Swedish section of the nation the low birth-rate and the big emigration. The Finland-Swedish population amounts to roughly 350,000 inhabitants, but in several places the birth-rate is critically low, in many parishes less than 15 per thousand. Since the war the emigration has been so great that the number of "absent" Finland-Swedes is estimated at 60,000 people, and the emigration is still going on.

In these circumstances the Bishop finds that the fundamental values of life bestowed on man through having a native country and Church, a home and a mother tongue should be emphasized in preaching, in teaching, and in the Press. The Bishop further urges that the social and economic development which has contributed to the large emigration should be taken up for serious consideration, such as, among other things, the declining prospects of the fishing industry and the rationalization of agriculture and its profitableness.

"The Pastor as Counsellor" - Series on the Radio.

Every fourth Wednesday throughout the autumn the Radio of Finland broadcasts a series of programmes under the common heading "The Pastor as Counsellor". In the first programme Rev. Ralf Karlsson described some of the been-ege problems he has come across as a minister among school pupils and Rev. Erik Enwald then examined the problems from a psychological point of view.

Greater Voluntary Efforts in Congregational Life.

In a leader the weekly in Swedish "Församlingsbladet", strongly urges that greater emphasis should be placed on the voluntary contribution of the members of the congregation in the life of the Church. The paper points out that several offices formerly conducted by members of the congregations in the course of time have been turned into paid jobs, such as, for instance, the ringing of bells, and the management of various activities among children and young people. The paper goes on:

"Much of the conversion of voluntary, unpaid service into full or part time jobs is very likely both well justified and inevitable. But - and this is the crux of the matter - we must not be blind to the fact that the feeling of congregational fellowship dies to the same extent as the only mutual effort and the sole responsibility of the individual member of the congregation is limited to paying church taxes. Consequently, we must engage the members in active work for two reasons: because there is work to be done, and in order to give them the experience of fellowship in work, a feeling of responsibility and the pleasure of knowing that they are needed, even in their own congregation.

News in Brief:

Also Finland is now actively engaged in evangelistic work among Russians. A Finnish clergyman and his family have left for the mission field of the Mission to the Pentbar in East-Pakistan.

The amusement church at Nikkilä which was erected in 1938 for the use of the Orthodox Russian soldiers has now been re-dedicated as a Lutheran parish church. The church has been thoroughly restored after having burned over in 1958 by the garrison at Nikkilä to the congregation in the town.

- The Mannerheim Child Welfare Union, the President of which is Bishop Martti Simojoki, celebrated its 40 years' anniversary on October 4th. The Union was founded by the later Marshal K.G. Mannerheim, and in the course of years has done a great work of training children's nurses, putting up consultative centres, and arranging for summer accommodation for children.

- On the initiative of the Cathedral Chapter of Helsinki (Helsingfors) a course in religious leadership was held for the first time last month. The rectors and general secretaries of religious institutions in the diocese were invited to take part in the course.

ICELAND

Dedication of the Cathedral of Skálholt Next Summer?

The erection of the new cathedral at the ancient episcopal seat of Skálholt is progressing rapidly and the dedication of the church is planned to take place next summer. Among the many gifts for the cathedral from the other Northern countries a beautiful baptismal font of Faroe stone has just been received from the Faroe Islands.

The Synod has requested of Government and Parliament to examine at the earliest possible date whether an espiscopal seat might once more be established at Skálholt where the bishops of Iceland have resided since the ordination of the first Icelandic bishop in 1056 until the residence was moved to Reykjavik 150 years ago. Opinions differ, however, on the advisability of such an arrangement.

New Church under Construction in Reykjavik.

Iceland's rapidly expanding capital Reykjavik, with at present a population of 70,000 inhabitants, will shortly have another church. The foundation stone for the Hateigskirke was laid recently, and in her address at this occasion the woman Mayor of Reykjavik, Mrs. Audur Auduns, expressed her appreciation of the fact that stately and durable churches are now being erected by the people instead of the ones built formerly from quickly deteriorating materials.

NORWAY

New Consciousness of Responsibility in the Norwegian Church.

Bishop Johannes Smemo, Oslo, has been asked by the religious daily paper in Oslo "Vårt Land" to give his views on the developments since the end of war in 1945. The Bishop answers:

"Immediately after the war we experienced a great disappointment. We had believed that a Christian and Church revival would burst forth from the difficult, but in many ways beneficent circumstances of the occupation. Instead, there came laxity and a certain reaction. I found it particularly disappointing to discover how quickly an old materialistic and rationalistic conception of life raised its head anew."

When asked whether this development is not partly due to passiveness on the part of the Church, the Bishop answers:

"At first a certain slackness in Church life could be noted; but in the course of these 15 years we have witnessed a growing sense of responsibility. Women and men in the Church have tried to carry out in real life some of our visions during the war. Contacts have been established, for instance, with circles with whom the Church formerly had only slight

The Mannerheim Child Welfare Union, the President of which is Bishop Aarrit Simojoki, celebrated its 50 years' anniversary on October 4th. The Union was founded by the Lutheran Baroness G.G. Mannerheim, and in the course of years has done a great work of building children's nurses, putting up consultative centres, and arranging for summer accommodation for children.

On the initiative of the Cathedral Chapter of Helsinki (Helsingfors) a course in religious leadership was held for the first time last month. The rectors and general secretaries of religious institutions in the diocese were invited to take part in the course.

ICELAND

Consecration of the Cathedral of Skálholt Next Summer

The consecration of the new cathedral at the ancient episcopal seat of Skálholt is progressing rapidly and the dedication of the church is planned to take place next summer. Among the many gifts for the cathedral from the other Northern countries a beautiful baptismal font of Faroe marble has just been received from the Faroe Islands.

The Synod has requested of Government and Parliament to examine at the earliest possible date whether an episcopal seat might once more be established at Skálholt where the bishops of Iceland have resided since the ordination of the first Icelandic bishop in 1056 until the residence was moved to Reykjavik 150 years ago. Opinions differ, however, on the advisability of such an undertaking.

New Church under Construction in Reykjavik

Iceland's rapidly expanding capital Reykjavik, with at present a population of 70,000 inhabitants, will shortly have another church. The foundation stone for the Hostelgkirke was laid recently, and in her address at this occasion the woman Mayor of Reykjavik, Mrs. Guðrun Pétursson, expressed her appreciation of the fact that wisely and durable stone are now being erected by the people instead of the once built formerly from quickly deteriorating materials.

NORWAY

New Consciousness of Responsibility in the Norwegian Church

Bishop Johannes Smemo, Oslo, has been asked by the religious daily paper in Oslo "Vårt Land" to give his views on the development since the end of war in 1945. The Bishop answers:

"Immediately after the war we experienced a great disappointment. We had believed that a Christian and Church revival would burst forth from the difficult, but in many ways beautiful circumstances of the occupation. Instead, there came laxity and a certain reaction. I found a particularly disappointing to discover how quickly an old materialistic and rationalistic conception of life raised its head anew."

When asked whether this development is not partly due to passiveness on the part of the Church, the Bishop answers:

"At first a certain slackness in Church life could be noted, but in the course of these 15 years we have witnessed a growing sense of responsibility. Women and men in the Church have tried to carry out in real life some of our visions during the war. Contacts have been established, for instance, with circles with whom the Church formerly had only slight

connections - the working class on the one side and the intellectual people on the other." In this connection the Bishop particularly mentions the contributions of the Congregational Institute and the Church Academy, but feels that, on the whole, this new sense of responsibility is noticeable all along the religious front.

"Relations between the Lutheran National Church and the Free Churches have undergone radical changes during post war years", the Bishop continues. The reason is partly that the Free Churches have left off one-sided ideas so that they are more in accordance with common Christian standards of faith and work, partly that the National Church has learnt to regard the Free Churches, not as competitors, but as fellow-workers in the effort to win the Norwegian people for God."

Spaking of the ecumenical work the Bishop stresses the close connection between evangelization and ecumenicity:

"It is worth noting that the ecumenical movement from the very beginning was intimately related to foreign missions. Especially among the non-Christian peoples the problems of Church division are fatal. I believe, therefore, that to the same extent as evangelization is alive and active, to the same extent will the ecumenical demands force their way to the foreground. It is only natural that the missionaries and the Younger Churches are most keenly aware of this fact. But a greater understanding in this respect on the part of mission friends at home is much to be desired."

"Extension of World Council Basis of No Consequence".

In an article in the "Vårt Land" the Rector of the Practical Theological Seminary of the Free Theological Faculty in Oslo, Dr. Carl Fr. Wisløff, who in later years has been one of the prominent opponents in the Norwegian Lutheran National Church to the World Council of Churches, has declared that the proposal for an extension of the basis of the World Council of Churches adopted at St. Andrews will be of no consequence whatever.

Rector Wisløff emphasizes that what the opposers in Norway want is a declaration that any conversation about the unity of the Church will be conducted on the basis of the Scriptures alone. Such a declaration will be impossible as long as the Greek Orthodox, the Old Catholic and the Coptic Churches are members of the World Council of Churches since they, in one way or the other, consider Church tradition and the Scriptures to be on the same level of authority. The World Council likewise includes liberal theologians whose attitude to the Scriptures is somewhat sceptical, Rector Wisløff writes.

Referring to the statement made by the Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches that the possibility of a conversation with the Roman Catholic Church must be received with pleasure, Dr. Wisløff says:

"Not having 'the Scripture alone' as the only possible basis they hope for great results from their talks with Rome. How blind they are. It would be well if those who have eyes to see with would use them."

Diakonia Work Ought to be Introduced in all Norwegian Parishes.

At the annual meeting last month of the National Union of Parish Social Work in the Lutheran Church of Norway it was resolved by an overwhelming majority to dissolve the Union. The National Union has been the organ of 134 local parochial or social work organizations, and the decision for the dissolution is not an act of defeat but meant to strengthen diakonia work.

Actually, the National Union handed over the whole undertaking, including all assets and claims, to the Diakonia Council under the Norwegian Lutheran Church; the Council was established at the last joint meeting of the Diocesan Councils. The purpose of the Diakonia Council is, by the help of diakonia committees in every diocese, to introduce parochial and social work in all Norwegian congregations.

The present Board of Management of the Union was asked to carry on as provisional management and to take such steps as may ensure the change over to the Diakonia Council without any interruptions of the work.

New Efforts for Increasing Church Attendance.

During the autumn a new drive for increased church attendance has been launched in a number of parishes in the Norwegian Lutheran Church. The drive was started by the "Action Committee for Increased Church Attendance", the Chairman of which is Mr. Gunnar Spilling.

The Committee is planning a new counting of people attending church on the same Sundays in spring as at a similar counting in 1956 so that a comparison can be made on a fairly reliable basis.

Baptism and Confirmation under Discussion on the Norwegian Radio.

Early in October the Norwegian Radio brought a programme on baptism entitled "Custom or a Matter of Life and Death", dealing with the whole question of the justification of infant baptism in a secularized society. A similar discussion on the position and justification of confirmation will follow later.

Besides this the Norwegian Radio is in the midst of a series of programmes on the Churches behind the "Iron Curtain". The series was introduced by a talk on the Russian Church, which gave rise to a certain amount of discussion, and will continue with broadcasts on the Churches in East Germany, the Balkans and China.

Immediately before the drive for greater church attendance (see above) a programme dealing with church services was broadcast. Of other programmes of religious interest during the autumn may be mentioned a feature on the massages on the seven churches in Revelations.

Anti-Semitism in the Religious Instruction in Schools?

In a circular the Norwegian Minister of Church Affairs, Mr. Helge Sivertsen, has appealed to school teachers to be on their guard against race hatred and anti-Semitism in their instruction. He feels that parts of the Passion story especially may arouse such feelings in the children that their minds may be prepared for anti-Semitism.

The Norwegian religious daily paper "Vårt Land" does not agree to this circular, describing it as superfluous and actually a vote of censure on the Norwegian teaching profession. With regard to the Passion story the paper points out that kept in its true perspective it does not make the Jews in particular, but the whole of mankind, responsible for the killing of Jesus. The paper concedes a former somewhat anti-Semitic trend in the Church, but this is not true any longer.

Two New Bishops Appointed in Norway.

Dr. Fr. Birkeli, the Secretary General of the Norwegian Missionary Society has been appointed the bishop of Stavanger and Dean Dr. Tord Godal, Oslo, the bishop of Nidaros (Trondheim).

Dr. Birkeli is 54 years old. For a long course of years he was a missionary in Madagascar, and before he took over his present position, he was the director of the Department on World Missions of the Lutheran World Federation.

Dr. Godal is 51 years old. Since 1955 he has been dean of the Cathedral of Oslo. Until a short time ago he was the president of the Norwegian Clergymen's Association.

SWEDEN

Archbishop on the Future Path of the Church.

The Archbishop of the Swedish Lutheran National Church, Dr. Gunnar Hultgren, closed the triennial General Church Conference in Stockholm last month by a lecture on "The Future Path of the Church" in which he drew up certain main lines on the background of former developments in Sweden. The lecture was received with great interest by the roughly 5,000 representatives of the congregations taking part in the meeting, the theme of which was "The Church in the Age of the Powers".

The Archbishop described how the definite "yes" to Christianity and "no" to paganism said a thousand years ago is far from being so unambiguous to-day. Many who have denied Christianity have not realized the powers to whom they have thus said "yes", and a "no" to heathenism is often not followed up by an equally clear "yes" to Christianity. In the present situation where many have become estranged from the Church it is important to meet people where they stand, to build the Church in the midst of the world of reality. Here it is of decisive importance that the Church stands united, not in every detail, but on essential matters.

"The ability for a better understanding between the National Lutheran Church and the Free Churches has increased", the Archbishop went on, and mentioned the fact that the National Church has given room for evangelization, revivals, and personal witnessing and the Free Churches have developed a clearer sense of Christian social responsibilities. The realization of the serious spiritual situation in the nation and the vision of a common Christian task must bring the denominations ever closer to each other. It is a challenge calling for uniting the efforts of all Christians in Sweden.

In the paper of the Confessional Front, the "Svensk Pastoraltidskrift", Dean G.A. Danell protests against describing the present controversy in the Swedish Church with regard to women ministers as unessential. It is a matter of doctrine, of the authority of the Apostles, the Bible and Christ Himself, and it involves, not just human dispositions, but the commandment of the Lord. "A commandment of the Lord is not someting unessential", the Dean consludes. "Whoever rejects just one of the commandments of the Lord, rejects the whole of the Scriptures and rebels against the Lord Himself".

Protest Against Plebiscite on State and Church.

"At best a plebiscite on the relation between the Swedish Lutheran National Church and the State will be rather worthless, - at worst it may become fatal", a prominetly placed article by Rev. Carl Strandberg in the paper of the Confessional Front "Svensk Pastoraltidskrift" states. The author maintains that the subject is so intricate that it will be impossible to formulate clear and concise alternatives to be used in a plebiscite suggested to take place around 1965. If the problem is reduced to a "yes" or "no" to the National Church being related to the

State, everybody will be able to interpret the result of such a plebiscite to his own liking. A "yes" will signify to many an authorization of the State to consolidate and extend its powers in matters of Church leadership. On the other hand, a "no" may easily be exploited by those who are against everything concerned with Church and Christianity.

Must Children of Non-Christians Attend "Morning Gatherings" in Schools?

In the course of a recent lively discussion in the "Stockholms-Tidningen" on religious instruction in the Swedish schools the author Per Anders Fogelström protested against "the children of non-Christians still being compelled to take part in the morning gatherings in schools - only children of parents belonging to other religious societies being excused."

In answer to this the weekly "Vår Kyrka" says that according to the Education Act exemption is ensured anyone not belonging to the Swedish Lutheran National Church whose parents or guardian informs the Head of the school that they should not attend. "Vår Kyrka" makes it clear that only pupils whose parents belong to the National Church need be present at morning gatherings and that the decision consequently is entirely in the hands of the parents.

Free Church Day Reaches Record Attendance.

The Free Church Day celebrated every year in the month of September at the Skansen in Stockholm as a day of re-union of members of the Free Churches reached a record peak this year with some 40,000 people being present. The previous record was made last year with 32,000 participants.

The Day included various events and lectures and closed with an address in the evening by the revivalist preacher John Hedlund who together with his team has just completed a big "crusade" in the Capital this autumn.

Wide Christian Drive among Teen-Agers.

On the initiative of the Joint Committee of the Free Churches a comprehensive drive on a wide Christian basis will be conducted during this and next month in order to help parents and teen-agers with the many topical youth problems. The motto of the drive is "Homes One Up!" emphasizing the positive influence on young people of a good home.

Behind the action are, besides the Free Churches and the Evangelical National Missionary Society, the Temperance Movement of the Christian Churches of Sweden and the insurance company "Ansvar".

A pamphlet, issued in 400,000 copies and telling about the youth drive, is sent to all teen-agers and all over the country meetings will be arranged for parents and young people, at the same time trying to interest the young in the work of the Christian youth organizations.

Proposal for More Free Church Spiritual Councelling in the Army.

In a report the Commission on Personnel of the Swedish Defence Forces has proposed that in peace time the spiritual care and pastoral councelling in military camps should be included in the activities of the local congregation. In this connection it is stressed that the Free Churches ought to have greater possibilities than at present for taking part in military pastoral work.

In war time the report suggests that there should be a minister available for every thousand men. He might belong to either the Lutheran National Church or a Free Church.

Diocesan Assembly Established in Two Swedish Dioceses.

A new voluntary organization is taking form in the Lutheran National Church of Sweden. The dioceses of Luleå and Växjö, as the first ones, have decided to set up Diocesan Assemblies. In Luleå this decision was reached at the diocesan meeting last summer; but it must be approved by at least 60 o/o of the individual parishes before it can come into force.

The Diocesan Assemblies are to be organs for such joint efforts in the dioceses as are not sponsored by one of the official diocesan organizations. The Diocesan Assembly elects an Executive Committee, and in the diocese of Luleå it will be given important economic powers, such as imposing contributions on the affiliated parishes for special diocesan enterprises.

The "Svensk Pastoraltidskrift" of the Confessional Front points out that if such Diocesan Assemblies are to be established in all or nearly all dioceses, the idea of a national higher Board should not be too distant.

Theological Students at Lund Found an "Emmaus Congregation".

The Parisian poor people's Abbé Pierre-movement "Emmaus", the purpose of which is to help the homeless to help themselves, now has a section in Sweden. It has been founded by some theological students at Lund and the work is well on the way. Clergymen, undergraduates, former alcoholics and convicts are working side by side, and many homeless and others in difficult circumstances have been helped to a new start and in addition to this money has also been sent down in support of Abbé Pierre's work in Paris.

News in Brief:

- A statement by the Swedish Bishops' Conference in September has been published in which it says that real wine must be used at the Eucharist, although it may be diluted with water. For some time a lively discussion has been going on as to whether non-alcoholic "wine" should be used at Holy Communion.

- At the clergymen's meeting in the Archdiocese of Uppsala Archbishop Gunnar Hultgren said that the percentage of church attendance in the diocese has gone up from 2,3 to 2,7; but that, of all the dioceses in the country, Uppsala came third lowest in church attendance. The percentage of children having been baptized or confirmed had increased from 84,6 o/o to 85,1 o/o and from 86,1 o/o to 89 o/o respectively. The number of communicants has gone up by almost 50 o/o.

Diocesan Assembly Established in Two Swedish Dioceses.

A new voluntary organisation is being formed in Lutheran National Church of Sweden. The dioceses of Lulea and Vaxjo, as the first ones have decided to set up Diocesan Assemblies. In Lulea this decision was reached at the diocesan meeting last summer, but it must be approved by at least 60 o/o of the individual parishes before it can come into force.

The Diocesan Assemblies are to be organs for such joint efforts in the dioceses as are not sponsored by one of the official diocesan organisations. The Diocesan Assembly elects an Executive Committee, and in the dioceses of Lulea it will be given important economic powers, such as levying contributions on the affiliated parishes for special diocesan enterprises.

The "Svensk Pastoraltidskrift" of the Confessional Front points out that if such Diocesan Assemblies are to be established in all or nearly all dioceses, the idea of a national higher Board should not be too distant.

Theological Students at Uppsala Found an "Emmaus Congregation".

The Parisian poor people's Abbé Pierre-movement "Emmaus", the purpose of which is to help the homeless to help themselves, now has a section in Sweden. It has been founded by some theological students in Lund and the work is well on the way. Clergymen, undergraduates, former alcoholics and convicts are working side by side, and many homeless and others in difficult circumstances have been helped to a new start and in addition to this money has also been sent down in support of Abbé Pierre's work in Paris.

Views in Brief:

A statement by the Swedish Bishops' Conference in September has been published in which it says that local wine must be used at the Communion, although it may be diluted with water. For some time a lively discussion has been going on as to whether non-alcoholic "wine" should be used at Holy Communion.

At the clergymen's meeting in the Archdioceses of Uppsala Archbishop Brilioth said that the percentage of church attendance in the dioceses has gone up from 2,3 to 2,7, but that, of all the dioceses in the country, Uppsala came third lowest in church attendance. The percentage of children having been baptised or confirmed had increased from 84,6 o/o to 85,1 o/o and from 86,1 o/o to 89 o/o respectively. The number of communicants has gone up by almost 50 o/o.